

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 720

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and applaud the Middle Tennessee State University football team upon a successful 2009 season.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful collegiate teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, led by Head Coach Rick Stockstill, the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Blue Raider football team achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2009 season, establishing a record of ten wins and three loses; and

WHEREAS, the MTSU football team rolled through the regular season, winning a record-setting seven Sun Belt Conference (SBC) games and ending the year with seven straight wins; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Blue Raiders broke thirteen single-season records, including total number of quarterback sacks, total number of tackles for loss, and setting a school record for total offense by gaining 5,482 yards, while also becoming the first MTSU football team to top 3,000 yards in passing; and

WHEREAS, with five wins and one loss at home during the 2009 season, MTSU drew a total of 123,104 excited fans to Floyd Stadium, an average of 20,517 fans per game, breaking the single season attendance record; and

WHEREAS, MTSU completed their amazing season by beating the University of Southern Mississippi by the score of 42-32 in the New Orleans Bowl on December 20, 2009, capturing the school's first Division I Bowl win; and

WHEREAS, the bowl game was highlighted by the outstanding performance of vaunted quarterback Dwight Dasher, who ran for 201 yards and two touchdowns on twenty-six carries, and completed 15-of-25 passes for 162 yards and two more scores, earning him Most Valuable Player honors by a unanimous vote; and

WHEREAS, finishing the season as the first team in the history of the SBC with ten wins, and as one of only twenty-one teams nationally to win ten games or more, MTSU was ranked 33rd nationally in the final ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll, and 37th nationally in the final Associated Press Poll; and

WHEREAS, the leadership and passion for the game of Head Coach Rick Stockstill and his assistant coaches are without peer; Coach Stockstill's precepts of playing tenacious defense, controlling the ball on offense, and limiting mistakes were perfectly on display during the Blue Raider's memorable season; and

WHEREAS, the MTSU football team displayed ability, teamwork, and perseverance throughout the 2009 season; winning numerous awards and honors, several key players, including Dwight Dasher, Chris McCoy, Shane Blissard, Kevin Brown, Danny Carmichael, Mark Fisher, Desmond Gee, Alan Gendreau, Patrick Honeycutt, Justin Jones, Jeremy Kellem, D.D. Kyles, Jamari Lattimore, Chris Mclover, Sherman Neal, Brandon Perry, Cam Robinson, Alex Suber, Phillip Tanner, Mark Thompson, Marcus Udell, with the help of their teammates, coaches, parents, and supporters represented their university and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the football field; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible season, the members of the 2009 MTSU football team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable football season, but also surely point toward their successes in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the Middle Tennessee State University football

team for their heralded success on the gridiron during the 2009 season and extend to them our best wishes for future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.